

I-DPC 680.4/Ft. Huachuca

2nd Ind

(Oct 51)

HEADQUARTERS, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, 14 Jan 1952

TO: Commanding General, Sixth Army  
Presidio of San Francisco, California

1. In compliance with letter AGAO-CS 601.1 (4 June 1951) G4, subject, "Land Acquisition, Department of the Army, Office of the Adjutant General, dated 30 October 1951, the following additional data are submitted:

a. Local resistance is not expected to the acquisition of the real estate requested to be acquired. The Deputy Post Commander and Staff Judge Advocate, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, appeared before the Interim Committee of the Twentieth Legislature, State of Arizona and made known to that committee the current title status of the Fort Huachuca Reservation. The committee was requested to initiate enabling legislation to permit properly constituted authorities to convey to the United States, for the use of the Department of the Army, fee title to lands and certain personalty at Fort Huachuca now held by the Army in possessory right only, and that such legislation authorize conveyance to the Army of future acquisition at Fort Huachuca referring to the old Artillery range. In open meeting, the Interim Committee approved the requests and voted unanimously to recommend and present to the next regular session of the Legislature in January 1952 legislation designed to accomplish the requests. From information available to this headquarters, there exists at the present time licenses, or grazing permits, to three individuals in the immediate vicinity of Fort Huachuca for the purpose of grazing livestock on the old Artillery range. These licenses may be terminated upon notice where it is deemed advisable to recapture the use of the premises for national defense purposes. The licensees have been personally contacted and they are fully aware of the terms of their licenses. They ask only that they be given adequate warning of the termination of their licenses so they may properly dispose of the livestock grazing upon the premises in question. At the present time it is anticipated that if the real estate requested to be acquired is secured, reasonable and adequate notice can and will be afforded the licensees of the termination of their licenses. Based upon the action of the Interim Committee of the State Legislature for the State of Arizona, and information regard to licensees holding grazing permits, it would appear that local resistance is not expected to the acquisition of the real estate in question.

b. Twenty thousand acres of the forty-four thousand acres comprising the present Fort Huachuca Military Reservation are extremely mountainous and are completely unsuitable for any training

except mountain operations. This leaves twenty-four thousand acres of mesa or rolling foothill country which includes housing barracks, magazine area, and small arms ranges. When the built up area is excluded, there is barely sufficient space remaining to provide close-in unit training areas for the engineer battalions and other units at Fort Huachuca. The National Guard will require space for artillery firing. Artillery firing into the mountainous area has not been permitted as it would result in many fires, thus lowering our supply of water and requiring the effort of many man hours to bring the fires under control. Artillery firing into the area designated for close-in unit training cannot be permitted as this would contaminate the area with duds, thus rendering dangerous the maneuvers of troops within the area. Thus, due to insufficient space, there can be no adjustment of the military requirements to use artillery fire in training.

c. The requested acquisition of the land in the County of Cochise, State of Arizona, north of State Highway 92 to the San Pedro River, known as the artillery range and more fully shown on the map, (Inclosure 3 to letter AMFAH-3 601, subject: Land Acquisition, this Headquarters, dated 4 June 1951), would permit the use of artillery firing. The area so requested covers only minimum essential needs for this purpose.

d. As indicated above, to carry out training missions at this station, there is insufficient space to make adjustments and any attempts to do so would be impractical.

DAVID M. DUNNE  
Colonel CE  
Commanding

3 Incls:  
n/c